

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
OIC-02 FEA-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 SS-15 STR-05 ITC-01
TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 STRE-00 /130 W
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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2470

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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PASS STR ELECTRONICALLY FOR STEWART

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT, EFIN, TU, AR

SUBJECT: GATT BOP COMMITTEE--INFORMAL MEETING OF KEY DELS

REF: (A) STATE 255502, (B) STATE 256829

1. INFORMAL MEETING OF DC DELS, GATT SECRETARIAT AND
CHAIRMAN OF BOP COMMITTEE JAGMETTI, OCTOBER 27, DISCUSSED
BOP MINI-CONSULTATION PROCEDURES, TURKISH WAIVER, ISRAEL
REQUEST FOR DELAY AND ACCESS TO IMF INFORMATION.

2. MINI-CONSULTATIONS--GROUP AGREED THAT POSSIBILITY OF
CONFRONTATION WITH ONE OR MORE LDC'S IN THE COMMITTEE IS
GROWING, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF REPEATED ARGENTINIAN THREAT
TO REFUSE FULL CONSULTATIONS IF ONE IS REQUESTED WITH IT.
CHAIRMAN ASKED IF COMMITTEE MEMBERS THOUGHT IT POSSIBLE TO
REFRAIN FROM REQUESTING FULL CONSULTATIONS WHILE QUESTION
OF BOP PROCEDURES IS BEING NEGOTIATED IN MTN. THIS, HE
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FELT, MIGHT PRESERVE PRINCIPLE OF RIGHT TO ASK FOR FULL
CONSULTATIONS BUT WOULD AVOID DEBILITATING CONFRONTATION
WHILE MTN NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNDER WAY. WE, SUPPORTED BY THE
CANADIANS, INDICATED THAT NOT REQUESTING FULL CONSULTATIONS
WAS MORE LIKELY TO WEAKEN THE PRINCIPLE INVOLVED. WE
INDICATED THE COMMITTEE SHOULD ASSUME THAT THE US WOULD
REQUEST FULL CONSULTATIONS WITH INDIA AND PERHAPS WITH

ARGENTINA AND/OR CHILE BUT THE DECISION ON THE LATTER WOULD DEPEND UPON THE SECRETARIAT'S RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS POSED REFTEL CONCERNING CONTINUED NEED FOR CHILE AND ARGENTINA TO CONSULT. SECRETARIAT INDICATED THAT PROPER PROCEDURE FOR CHILE AND ARGENTINA TO FOLLOW, IF INDEED THEY NO LONGER MAINTAINED QR'S FOR BOP REASONS, WAS TO DISINVOKE ARTICLE XVIII (OR FOR THE COMMITTEE TO INDICATE DURING MINI CONSULTATIONS THAT THEY SHOULD DISINVOKE ARTICLE XVIII). SEVERAL OF THE GROUP SAW THIS POSSIBILITY AS A MEANS OF AVOIDING CONFRONTATION WITH ARGENTINA, AND SECRETARIAT BELIEVES INDIA WOULD ACCEPT FULL CONSULTATIONS WITHOUT COMPLAINT. WHILE ALL OTHER DC DELS (EC, CANADA, AUSTRALIA, NORDICS, JAPAN) STATED SUPPORT IN PRINCIPLE FOR THE US' LIKELY REQUEST FOR FULL CONSULTATIONS, NONE WERE WILLING TO SAY THEY WOULD JOIN US IN REQUESTING A FULL CONSULTATION WITH INDIA, OR CHILE AND ARGENTINA IF WE SO DECIDED. THE NORDICS, HOWEVER, THOUGHT THAT THE GROUP SHOULD NOT BACK DOWN FROM A CONFRONTATION WITH ARGENTINA. IN RESPONSE TO EC REQUEST WE PROMISED TO LET OTHERS KNOW AT LEAST A MONTH IN ADVANCE WHAT WE WILL DO; WE IN TURN REQUESTED THAT OTHER GOVERNMENTS INFORM US IN ADVANCE IF THEY CAN SUPPORT US.

3. TURKISH WAIVER--ALTHOUGH GROUP NOTED THERE ARE INCONSISTENCIES IN THE WAY IN WHICH SURCHARGES WERE TREATED IN THE GATT, IT BELIEVED THAT THE TIME WAS NOT OPPORTUNE FOR REMOVING THE TURKISH WAIVER OBLIGATIONS. THE SECRETARIAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WILL INFORM TURKEY TO FOLLOW THE SAME PROCEDURE AS IN THE PAST AND REQUEST AN EXTENSION OF THE WAIVER. THE SECRETARIAT HAD HEARD INFORMALLY THAT THE TURKS WERE THINKING OF INCREASING THE STAMP DUTY TO 25 AND THE GROUP BELIEVES THAT THE WAIVER SHOULD PLACE A SPECIFIC LIMIT ON THE LEVEL OF THE STAMP DUTY.

4. ISRAEL--GROUP AGREED TO LET ISRAEL POSTPONE ITS CONSULTATIONS UNTIL AFTER APRIL 1 AND THOUGHT THIS COULD BE DONE IN LOW KEY MANNER WITHOUT ANY DIFFICULTY.

5. IMF CONSULTATIONS--GATT SECRETARIAT INDICATED THAT AS RESULT OF AGREEMENT WITH IMF, IMF REP WILL ARRIVE IN GENEVA A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE BOP MEETING TO CONSULT WITH THE GATT AND WILL BE AVAILABLE TO CONSULT WITH MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE IF THEY DESIRED. HE WILL ALSO MAKE AVAILABLE TEXT OF HIS STATEMENT TO COMMITTEE SEVERAL DAYS IN ADVANCE. GROUP AGREED THAT SUCH CONSULTATIONS SHOULD BE ON AN INFORMAL AND UNSTRUCTURED BASIS LEAVING IT TO INDIVIDUAL DELEGATIONS TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO CONTACT THE FUND REPRESENTATIVE IF THEY DESIRE.

6. DATE OF BOP COMMITTEE--MEETING TENTATIVELY SET FOR MID JANUARY. WE ASKED GROUP WHETHER IT PREFERABLE TO HAVE THE BOP COMMITTEE MEETING BEFORE OR AFTER THE CG-18 MEETING SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 2-3 (WHICH WILL DISCUSS MINI CONSULTATIONS). CHAIRMAN THOUGHT (AND OTHERS CONCURRED) IT PREFERABLE TO MAINTAIN MID-JANUARY DATE FOR BOP COMMITTEE ON RATIONALE THAT IF CONFRONTATION ON MINI-BOP ISSUE ARISES, CG-18 MEETING TWO WEEKS LATER COULD CONSIDER THE ISSUE ON BASIS OF A CONCRETE PROBLEM.

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7. COMMENT: WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT CHANGES IN ARGENTINA'S REGIME WILL ALLOW US LEGITIMATE WAY OF IMPENDING CONFRONTATION. IF, HOWEVER, THIS IS NOT THE CASE, THERE APPEARS TO BE A GENERAL CONSENSUS AMONG DC DELS TO RISK A CONFRONTATION IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THE PRINCIPLE OF ASKING FOR A FULL CONSULTATION. IF THE U.S. (OR ANOTHER DEL) DECIDES TO ASK FOR A FULL CONSULTATION WITH ARGENTINA WE WILL NEED TO MAKE A DEMARCHE IN BUENOS AIRES IF WE HOPE TO CHANGE ARGENTINA'S POSITION SINCE LOCAL DEL HAS CLIMBED SO FAR OUT ON A LIMB ON THIS ISSUE THAT A MORE ACCOMMODATING ATTITUDE ON HIS PART IS UNLIKELY. FURTHERMORE, WE SHOULD DO OUR UTMOST TO INSURE THAT SOME OTHER DC'S JOIN US WHENEVER WE REQUEST FULL CONSULTATIONS IN THE FUTURE. VANDEN HEUVEL

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